AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 3, paragraph 6, please change to read as follows:

It is an object of the present invention to make it possible for a user-side device connected by a permanent virtual connection path to select and connect one among multiple specified connection destinations. The present invention provides a layer 2 link handler and a path connection method ~~therefor~~ thereof such that it is possible to do traffic line collection by setting multiple layer 2 links on a single physical layer circuit, make network operation efficient, and execute high-speed switching in which multiple layer 2 links are logically separated.

At page 7, paragraph 2, please change to read as follows:

~~Fig. 9 is~~ Figs. 9 (a and b) are an explanatory diagram of an embodiment ~~the mode of implementation of the invention~~ for PVC (permanent virtual connection) path setting by an ATM switch;

At page 7, paragraph 4, please change to read as follows:

~~Figs. 11 a, 11 b and 11c~~ Figs. 11 (a, b and c) diagrammatically explain the second mode of implementation of the invention and show a conversion table to ATM addresses;

At page 7, paragraph 6, please change to read as follows:

Fig. 13 is a diagram showing an embodiment ~~a mode of implementation of the invention~~ for layer 2 switching for PVC (permanent virtual connection) and SVC (switched virtual connection) paths;

At page 7, paragraph 7, please change to read as follows:

~~Fig. 14 is~~ Figs. 14 (a and b) are an explanatory diagram of a mode of implementation of the invention that assigns arbitrary labels;

4

At page 7, paragraph 8, please change to read as follows:

~~Fig. 15 is~~ Figs. 15 (a and b) are an explanatory diagram of a mode of implementation of the invention that does labeling to prevent collisions;

At page 7, paragraph 9, please change to read as follows:

~~Fig. 16 is~~ Figs. 16 (a and b) are an explanatory diagram of a mode of implementation of the invention that does labeling by negotiation;

At page 7, paragraph 10, please change to read as follows:

~~Fig. 17 is~~ Figs. 17 (a and b) are an explanatory diagram of a mode of implementation of the invention that does labeling by network operation;

At page 7, paragraph 11, please change to read as follows:

~~Fig. 18 is~~ Figs. 18 (a and b) are an explanatory diagram of a mode of implementation of the invention that does labeling according to QoS;

At page 8, paragraph 1, please change to read as follows:

Fig. 22 is a diagram that shows an embodiment ~~a mode of implementation~~ in which a layer 2 handler of the invention is provided within a subscriber line ~~line~~ collection device (OLT);

At page 10, paragraph 2, please change to read as follows:

Layer 2 handler 5-11 newly establishes an SVC (switched virtual connection) path to said specified connection destination by a signaling protocol. Layer 2 handler 5-11 makes a layer 2 connection between the user-side device and one specified connection destination by switching, at the layer 2 packet level, ~~the layer 2 packet~~ (PPP packet, etc.) that arrives from the PVC (permanent virtual connection) path with the user-side device to an SVC (switched virtual connection) path of one specified connection destination, such as a network service provider (NSP).

5

11184267 u1